



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, May 12, 2003

This “Weekly Notice” is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/>

Emergency Programs

Citrus Canker - On May 8, 2003, the State of Florida has extended the citrus canker quarantine to a 51 square mile area in Palm Beach County. This action was taken in response to a number of detections of citrus canker at residential locations in the quarantine area. The State is now in the process of conducting eradication activities in this area, including the removal and destruction of all trees infected with citrus canker and all host plants within 1,900 ft. of any infected tree. These eradication actions have been made possible as a result of the recent decision by the State’s 4th District Court of Appeals, overturning an injunction prohibiting the removal of exposed trees, and easing procedures under which the State may obtain search warrants. USDA is currently in the process of updating the Federal Citrus Canker Quarantine to bring it in line with the State’s Quarantine.

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Plum Pox Virus - On May 6, 2003, a meeting was held in Carlisle, PA, to finalize the details of the Plum Pox Virus (PPV) survey program being conducted in the State this year. The survey program is one of the essentials of the PPV eradication program currently being conducted jointly by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and APHIS. Surveys, of host plants (peach, nectarine, plum, and apricot trees), usually begin in the spring when new leaves are fully expanded. At the present time surveys of cherry orchards and residential cherry trees are being conducted in the quarantine area. Although cherry is not considered to be a host of the D strain of PPV present in PA, the program staff thought that it was prudent to include cherry in the survey. This year all host trees in the quarantine areas will be included in the survey as well as all host trees in

the area 5 miles around the quarantine areas. These surveys will include both trees in orchards and trees at residential locations. More limited surveys will be conducted in orchards beyond this area, since all orchards in the State have now been surveyed once (and in many cases two or three times).

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Cotton Pest Programs

Pink Bollworm Eradication – Program managers, CPHST, PDMP, and IS staff conducted early-season training sessions last week in El Paso, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Chihuahua, Mexico. Topics included insect identification, and operational procedures for this year’s program.

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Boll Weevil Eradication – Strong storms and tornados through Oklahoma, Missouri, and Tennessee have delayed planting in some areas and made it difficult to install and maintain a full array of pheromone traps, while floods have hit much of the Southeast. After some fairly cold weather this past winter, it is important that traps be up and operational across the 9.5 million acres of cotton within the active program areas.

Effective early detection of any remaining weevils, coupled with timely treatments where needed, will go a long way in moving each zone closer to eradication.

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Domestic Programs

Aircraft and Equipment Operations - Aircraft and Equipment Operations (AEO) completed the aerial calibration trials and drift study of the Wilbur-Ellis Sevin 5 Bait that will be used during the grasshopper and Mormon cricket control programs this season. The data will be useful during program planning and to assign appropriate buffers near non-target and/or



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sensitive sites if unfavorable meteorological conditions exist.

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Ralstonia - No new samples have been submitted to the USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST Lab, Beltsville, MD, since May 7, 2003, and no confirmed positives have been reported since April 28, 2003. As of May 12, 2003, the APHIS confirmed detections of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3, biovar 2 on geraniums still stands at 27 States and 127 establishments (excluding the MI and NH rooting stations). The number of positive testing facilities in each state remains the same, tallied as follows: AL (9), AR (2), CO (1), DE (1), GA (2), ID (1), IL (4), IN (4), IA (6), KS (3), KY (1), MD (3), ME (1), MI (12), MN (4), MO (6), NH (1), NJ (1), NY (3), NC (13), OH (7), PA (8), SC (8), TN (1), TX (7), VA (10), and WI (7). There are currently 12 nurseries still on hold in two States. A total of 907 nurseries have been released.

Environmental Monitoring - A cadre of environmental monitors were trained in Utah on April 23 - 24, 2003. Those trained will be called upon to assist in conducting environmental monitoring for grasshopper/Mormon cricket control programs in the far west. The training will be repeated in Montana on May 21 - 22, 2003, to expand the roster.

A meeting was held on April 30, 2003, in Arkansas with boll weevil eradication personnel to discuss procedures for investigating and reporting on complaints about possible adverse effects resulting from program activities. A field practical was also conducted. The result of the successful meeting was an agreement on data requirements, timelines and reporting-lines.

Protocol for monitoring ground water for imidicloprid residues near ALB-treated trees in Suffolk county, NY, was agreed to. Samples will be split and analyzed at the county laboratory and at PPQ's ANPCL.

A letter was received from US Fish and Wildlife Service concurring with the boll weevil program's determination of "not likely to adversely affect" E&T species in the southeastern States. The program is still waiting for a concurrence from the Service for the western States (the western state programs need not delay commencement of program activities as they can operate under last years concurrence).

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